Nov. 24, 1968
(1)

Dear Harold,

I regret to inform you that the tape recorder didn't function correctly because when I shut it off to omit the news (after the 1st hour), I turned it on incorrectly and made the one mistake you can make on this recorder which allows you to believe you are still recording. I should really say I didn't function correctly. If I had a playback system I could have checked it out as it was happening. I am going to send the hr. that did come out. There is important information on it. In fact, the format of the show is such that the 1st hr is for closed conversation between Courtney and Penabay. The rest is left open to callers. Unfortunately, the part of the tape where I asked the questions did not come out. And even worse, with all the excitement, I placed my full faith in the recorder and did not quite absorb

what he was saying to me
My wife was listening also,
but also had her attention
focused on the machine and
the fact that I had gotten
air time. As a result, I will
try to approximate what he
said:

I asked Penabay what
his feelings were about all the
controversy over the past 5 years
dealing with the J.F.K. assassin
I was able to ask this because
previously on the show (about
mid way) he commented in passing
that Lee Harvey Oswald killed
J.F.K. and was a member of the
F.P.C.C. and chapter head.
When I called, I said that there
seems to be disagreement about
whether or not L.H. Oswald was
affiliated with F.P.C.C. at all.
He said well it's common knowledge
that he was, and referred to the
leaflet and the N.C.R. & then
said: but didn't the Chairman in
N.O. deny any association with Oswald
and he said if not Mr. Chairman
one _____ (don't recall name
but it wasn't Vincent Theodore Lee
who I thought was a chairman at time)
didn't really deny it, but rather said
they don't keep records or membership
etc. etc. Penabay employing Cop-out on Chairmans part.

He dropped that (3) and started to debate about the Bringuier Oswald Debate (I played Dumb) He said that they were both arrested, brought before a Judge [ ]he mentioned name (don't remember) and that it was obvious Oswald was a Member. He did not mention that Carlos actually started the fight but that Oswald pleaded guilty and Bringuier got off (as I remember the incident from your books) I did not press that point because I did not want to antagonize the situation and get cut off. He implied or said that he knew Bringuier and that this incident was all contrived as a result of some deal Shackley on his part (I.G. vague in my memory and he was very explicit) He did however seem to be trying to project some kind of [illegible] me I'm an expert on this particular incident, attitude Hoke did & I can piece together on that matter

I then asked his opinion about the Garrison case and related conspiracy theories. Courtney shook his head & cut me off and allowed him to answer. He said that first of all we never hear anything about it in the papers. ~~New Orleans is small~~ (OVER)

and that no news comes out from New Orleans. I asked him if Garrison got anything. He said he didn't know but offered as an opinion a commentary on Garrisons tactics those being to call various people conspirators without proof and to imply conspiracy in various groups (Cubans, oil interests etc) without ever naming any body. He implied that there is no way of knowing whether or not Garrison is on the level but that there is good reason to doubt him for example Mark Lane who worked with Garrison was running for Vice Pres on the Peace and Freedom Party with Dick Gregory. He said everything Gregory says reeks of Communism and that the Communist Newspaper (Daily Worker and some others) have endorsed these Peace and Freedom Party therefore Mark Lane can't trust etc etc and either implies or directly stated that Mark Lane is a Marxist. At that M. Courtney thanked me for calling and hung up.

That's the best I can remember

There were some other things of interest on the show that I remember. Someone called up and asked if it's true that H. L. Hunt gave him $15,000. He laughed and denied it, and said, that he wished Hunt had given to him. He did admit that Hunt financed his trip on ~~Oklahoma~~ Arkansas which is the subject matter of the 15 hr of the tape and relates to an investigation by Penabay of the hookers and Beck (arrogance of power) in Arkansas of William Fulbright. Concluding, of course, that Fulbright is a commie. You'll see that for yourself.

He defended [illegible] to callers as the only Mag that brought the true point of view. Courtney commented that everything else is Pablum. Penabay denounced Time, Newsweek, Ramparts, Evergreen, New Republic and Student Newspapers in the colleges. Courtney got into his SDS kick, denouncers them etc.

I don't remember much else except for a lot of screaming and tension with dissident callers, some of whom were criticising Insight for its polarization technique. An old woman called and said if everything is bad, what is good? They both babbled and hung up on her.

It seems that I mistakenly pushed the record button for Channel 2 but had the mike on Channel 1. Evidently the indicator registers that I was recording but actually wasn't. The tape might still have the recording somewhere but at a low frequency. I don't know much about electronics. If you do maybe you can find a method of picking it up, but I doubt whether its possible or whether the recording actually does exist.

I feel very bad that this happened. The next time I can assure you (I hope) that I won't make the same mistake. Unfortunately, I got access to another recorder with a playback system but I'll be pretty sick is why I know it didn't come out.

Ross

I'm sorry I blew it.